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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1912.

DELCASSE'S RETURN TO OFFICE.

The most significant incident in the recent French Cabinet maneuvers is the return of M. Delcasse to the Foreign Office. During the late difficulties with Germany over Morocco this energetic and competent statesman was ostensibly Secretary of the Navy, but his real duty was to tell the Cabinet what to do in the German negotiations. This duty he fulfilled with admirable ability. Under the guidance of his courage and wisdom France held her own in Morocco at the comparatively trifling cost of sacrificing some territory at the mouth of the Congo, territory which is not essential to the development of her African empire. The outcome of these negotiations was unsatisfactory to the general public both in France and Germany. Each nation shrieked that the other had cheated it. In France the outcry, with other matters, has finally turned out the Cabinet, and in the shuffle M. Delcasse has been restored to his proper post at the head of foreign affairs. This was his position in 1905 when the Emperor William made his bullying visit to Morocco with the intent to frighten the French away from that region. In the European hubbub which ensued M. Delcasse maintained an attitude so firm that Germany threatened war. The French were not then quite ready to fight and so he was removed from the Foreign Office and the Kaiser was sufficiently pacified to assent to the Algeciras agreement.

The later disturbances over Morocco have ended in a decided growth of French power and prestige in that section. She has secured the practical ownership of it. Germany retains some commercial privileges, but they amount to very little more than other nations enjoy as a matter of course. The French position in Europe is also appreciably stronger than it was six years ago, and if it came to the pinch she would probably feel able and willing to fight Germany, of course with the aid of Great Britain, which is at her disposal when she needs it. But the French people are fond of colonies, though they never have been very successful in holding them. They look upon their African Empire as a far more precious possession than it really is, and the sacrifice of a fraction of it to satisfy "German greed" has not pleased them. The Ministry which assented to the bargain has had a stormy time ever since, and now it has definitely gone under. President Fallieres has had so much trouble in getting a new Cabinet together that excitable men like Henry Rochefort have begun to talk of revolution and the downfall of the republic, but that is folly. The republic never was so stable as it is now, and its European prestige never was so imposing. France stands in less danger of revolution than Germany.

The loss of the territory at the mouth of the Congo does not interfere with French colonial plans very much, though it is of the greatest strategic advantage to Germany to have obtained it. The natural path of French advance in Africa is by way of the Sahara from the North. Along this route her progress will be sure, though perhaps a little slow, and there is no power to impede her pioneers. Quite unlike traditional conquerors and empire builders, she makes the earth green as she advances. The weapons by which France is conquering her empire in Northern Africa are wells for irrigation and houses for settled colonists. Germany, on the other hand, already has a colony on the east coast of Africa between the Equator and the parallel of 10 degrees south. This is the latitude of the mouth of the Congo. Naturally she wishes to extend her possessions across the continent and thus include the entire course of the Congo. A railway parallel to the great river is already projected. With this belt across Africa at the Equator Germany would effectually divide the British colonies in the North from those at the Cape. The only break in British territory from the Mediterranean to the Cape of Good Hope is the German colony, which is about 500 miles wide. Its western boundary is Lake Tanganyika, which is the source of the Congo. Along the eastern shore of this long lake runs the route of the "Cape to Cairo" railroad which England has determined to build. If German plans of aggression are carried out this road must run for some 500 miles through the Kaiser's dominions, and will thus lose a great part of its military value.

Hence we perceive that the real clash in Africa is between Germany and Great Britain. Germany wants to stretch her colony from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic. England wants to run without a break from Egypt to the Cape. The two nations stand squarely in each other's way. In the past such colonial conflicts have always been settled by war. Perhaps some better way out of this difficulty will be found. If England can oust Germany from East Africa the vast Indian Ocean will be surrounded on three sides by her possessions. The Arabian peninsula seems to be an exception, but really it is not. British territory just about encloses it, and if the region had any value England would take it forthwith without effective opposition. Abyssinia, at the foot of the Red Sea, does not come down to the coast. It is cut off by a petty French colony and the remnants of Italian holdings, which Great Britain does not dislike. Both Italy and France are her firm friends and both of them detest Germany. The important point to remember is that French and British colonial interests in Africa do not conflict at all, while between those of England and Germany a clash is probably impossible to avoid. If a colonial and commercial war should break out, therefore, between the Kaiser and King George, it is not difficult to foretell what France would do. The firm stand which England took for French claims in the late Moroccan trouble would no doubt be richly repaid in troops for African service.

TROUBLE IN THE FAMILY.

Professor Wilson's unfilial treatment of his political parent, Colonel Harvey, has naturally made a great commotion in the Democratic family. Colonel Watterson has to explore his extensive vocabulary in order to express himself with sufficient moderation. Here is one guarded paragraph from the Colonel's long letter:

> That Governor Wilson, without the least show of compunction, should express or yield to such an opinion and permit Colonel Harvey to consider himself discharged from the position of trusted intimacy he had up to this moment held, left me little room to doubt that Governor Wilson is not a man who makes common cause with his political associates, or is deeply sensitive of his political obligations, because it is but true and fair to say that except for Colonel Harvey he would not be in the running at all.

One would imagine, from the Colonel's parliamentary, though explicit, language, that he had never before met a politician with a yellow streak.

PERSECUTING THE SETTLER.

Senator Borah's protest against the persecution of the settlers on the public domain could not have overstated the facts, no matter how strong the language he used. The worst consequence of the land fraud trials and of the conservation campaign in the East is the general assumption that every man in the West who tries to secure title to a piece of public land is, by that very fact, a thief, liar and perjurer, to be hounded by special agents and forest rangers until he flies to Canada. There he is welcomed, shown every confidence which his own good faith merits, and given title to land without any of the exasperating and humiliating conditions to which he is subjected in the United States.

Even if the land laws were administered only in exact accordance with their terms and with only as much regard for justice to the settler as they permit, they would be overexacting. A man is required to make his home on a piece of land which must be partly cleared of heavy timber and thick brush before he can begin to make it produce a living for him and his family. If he absents himself more than a certain length of time to earn a living elsewhere during this period of preparation, a special agent is at his heels and he must endure a contest which may end in the forfeiture of his claim. In brief, if he remains on his homestead, he will starve; if he goes away to avoid starvation, he loses the homestead.

But his position is aggravated by the manner in which the law is administered. So convinced are the conservationists of the East, who have long ago wasted their share of the public domain, that every Western settler is a prima facie thief and perjurer, that the Interior Department is driven by misguided public opinion to keep the West swarming with special agents. The one idea of these men is to make a record by tripping up the settler at every turn of the legal road. Their fidelity to duty is measured not by the number of settlers who are making homes in their district, but by the number they can nag and worry with contests in the land office.

The settler escapes the clutches of the special agent only to fall into those of the forest ranger. If he selects a tract of agricultural land in a National forest, he risks a contest on the ground that the land is not agricultural or is needed as a ranger station or is a future power site. There may not be enough timber on it to build his cabin, but that makes no difference. He becomes an object of suspicion from the moment he enters the National forest.

Secretary Fisher has shown a sympathetic understanding of the needs of the West, but he is hampered by obsolete laws, which were drafted by men who knew not the West. He is hampered most of all by men through whom he must work—men whom he has inherited from his predecessors. They are slaves to bureaucracy and red tape, ignorant of the West and out of sympathy with it.

The land laws need reform and administration in the interest of the West, as understood by men who know Western conditions.

BALTIMORE, THE CONVENTION CITY.

Baltimore, the scene of the first political conventions, is coming into its own again. After being displaced by Western cities, usually Chicago, the Monument City is to have the Democratic National Convention for the first time in 40 years. In making this selection the Democrats set at naught the unhappy associations growing out of the convention they held at Baltimore in 1860, when the party hopelessly split and made Lincoln's election possible.

At Baltimore was held the first National political convention in the United States—that of the Anti-Masonic party in September, 1831. This was followed in December of that year by the first National convention of the Whigs, which nominated Henry Clay for President, and by that of the Democrats in 1832, which renominated Andrew Jackson. The first six conventions of the Democrats and three of the five conventions of the Whigs were held in Baltimore. In 1856 the Democrats met at Cincinnati, but in 1860, after meeting at Charleston, they adjourned to Baltimore, where the nomination of Douglas caused the Southerners to bolt and nominate Breckinridge.

That split caused the election of Lincoln, secession and the Civil War. It caused the exile of the Democratic party from control of National affairs for a quarter of a century. So low had it fallen in its own estimation that in 1872 it met in Baltimore only to indorse the nomination of Greeley by the bolting Republicans. The last Republican convention in Baltimore was held in 1864, when Lincoln was renominated.

The last Democratic convention held in any Atlantic Coast city was that of 1872, and only one Republican convention has been held in that section—that of 1900. Chicago has become the chief convention city, having been the scene of nine such gatherings since 1864. St. Louis and Cincinnati have most frequently been her successful rivals.

Selection of Baltimore, an Atlantic Coast and Southern City, is significant of the growing influence of the conservative elements of the East and South and of the waning of radical Western power in the Democracy. Bryanism took the convention of 1908 to Denver, where Guffey and his contesting delegation of Pennsylvania machine men were thrown out. The Eastern Democracy, mostly friendly to Harmon, and the Southern Democracy, whose idol is Underwood, have taken this year's convention to Baltimore, where Bryan and his followers may be given a dose of their own medicine.

The platform and nominations at Baltimore are apt to be dictated by a conference of the powers which took the convention there—by Murphy, Roger Sullivan, Taggart, Guffey and Underwood's Southern friends. The West may be given something to pacify it and prevent a repetition of the disastrous split of 1860.

THE Y. M. C. A.

The Portland Young Men's Christian Association gained 1234 new members last year. The attendance at the gymnasium increased by about 5000. These figures illustrate the magnitude of the work which the association is doing, but they give no notion of its variety. Some careless people suppose that the Y. M. C. A. is a fanatical club of distractedly pious youths who spend the day preaching to one another and praying for their neighbors' sins.

Many of the members, we dare say, are pious. We wish they all were. But it is far from the fact to believe that preaching is their only occupation. They pray, of course, but a great deal of their devotion is of the practical kind which Paul had in mind when he said that faith without works is of no account.

The Y. M. C. A. is a great educational organization. It aims to educate the entire man, soul, body and intellect, and so far as we can see it places these three departments pretty nearly on the same level, just as the Almighty did when he created us.

The night and day schools of the association, as Mr. Ladd says in his annual presidential report, "have developed into a veritable university." Most subjects that any human being could wish to know about are taught there by competent instructors. The night classes are a particular advantage to workingmen who are busy by day and the branches are such as practical people wish to study. The fees which the association charges for instruction cannot begin to meet the expenses, but still they amount to a neat sum in the course of the year. For 1911 they came to about $20,000.

The best kind of charity is that which teaches a man to help himself, and this is what we find constantly practiced at the Y. M. C. A. A year ago, in speaking of this wholly praiseworthy institution, we suggested that it ought to receive an ample endowment from some departing millionaire. The suggestion has not yet been followed. Perhaps no millionaire of sufficient wealth has died. Perhaps our hint has been overlooked. In any case we put it forth again, hoping for better luck this year. We can think of no institution which better deserves a rich endowment than the Y. M. C. A.

THE OREGON PLAN IN OHIO.

Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow, who has been elected president of the new Ohio Constitutional Convention, is a progressive, with some slight mental reservations. The convention is in the hands of the liberals and the progressives and the Reverend Herbert was elected as a result of a coalition between the two. The liberals, it seems, are an element that concern themselves chiefly with devising ways and means to prevent Ohio going dry. Brother Bigelow evidently found that the Demon Rum, on close inspection, was not without one or two redeeming qualities, chief of which was his political influence.

President Bigelow is strongly inclined toward the Oregon plan of government. First and foremost he is for the initiative and referendum. "But," so it is reported, "he is not yet ready to take a stand for the recall, at least as it applies to judges."

Like Colonel Roosevelt, Dr. Wilson and other eminent friends of the Oregon plan, Dr. Bigelow evidently does not care a peppercorn for logic. He is for the Oregon plan with a large and obstructive "if." The Oregon plan includes the recall and the recall includes the judges. It is a fundamental part of the system.

The people elect the judges and doubtless Dr. Bigelow and his illustrious compeers would aver warmly that the people can make no mistake. If the people are qualified to elect them, why are not the people fit to recall them if they are fit to recall anybody? Why should an exception be made against the people's recalling judges if it is not to be made against their electing judges?

PHILANTHROPY FOR WASTRELS.

A correspondent, who is interested in the single tax and its application, has submitted to The Oregonian the following concrete example which we shall try to answer briefly for the benefit of him and such others as may be studying the question:

> Portland, Or., Jan. 15.—(To the Editor.)—A and B own adjacent lots valued at $10,000 each. A has no means to improve his; B has $5000, with which he builds a store building on his lot and rents it for $50 per month to C, who puts in a $5000 stock of merchandise. Under the present system of taxation we will assume that A pays $200 taxes, B $300, and C $100. Under the single tax system would it be the logical conclusion to say that A's taxes would be $300, B's $300, and C's nothing?
> SUBSCRIBER.

Under the workings of the preliminary single tax measures to be presented in the next election C would pay no direct tax and A and B would pay equally. Their tax might be $300 each. It might be more. It might be less. The amount of improvements and personal property excluded from taxation and the amount of license taxes and other revenues abolished throughout the county by the law would affect the amount A and B would pay.

Any figures purporting to show in advance what any individual's taxes would be under the proposed scheme are valueless. A great deal of improvement on land is now lumped in with real property values on the tax rolls and would be excluded under single tax. The amount cannot be ascertained from the present rolls. Clearing, grubbing and grading of a lot, for example, are improvements and are not now listed on the tax rolls as improvements, but are included in assessed lot values. Someone might estimate their value, but there is no assurance that his estimate would be the same as the judgment of an assessor valuing property later under a single tax scheme.

It should be remembered in studying results that the single taxers do not propose to stop at raising the present current revenues. All or nearly all the rental value of land is ultimately to be taken. In the example given, B's lot is inadequately improved. He is receiving only 4 per cent income on an investment of $15,000. If 8 per cent were considered the rental basis on an unimproved lot A's bare $10,000 lot would have a rental value of $800 per year. Most single taxers would let the owner retain enough of this $800 to pay him for acting as the agent of the Government in collecting the rent. If this were 5 per cent, which is what rental agencies exact, A and B under the full application of single tax would pay in taxes about $760 a year. Single taxers argue that the community has made the land values and therefore the community should receive the benefit. Surplus revenues would be expended on public improvements, purchase of public utilities and for a number of other things we do not really need but which would be nice to have.

D, who has come to town in recent years, who has never deprived himself of anything in order to lay by for the future and who has no ambition, but a full supply of envy and covetousness—D by mere presence in the community and the fact that he buys food and clothing and rents a room, we are told, becomes a creator of land values. For D's benefit A's lot, for which he has sacrificed comforts and luxuries that D has enjoyed, must yield up all its rental value for D's further comfort and pleasure.

Thus single tax is a very pleasant dream for D. In fact, single tax philanthropic interest for him is a kind of fellow-feeling. It is very much like the sentiment of the generous character in "The Mikado," whose song was of this import:

> If I'd the power, which I've not,
> D should enjoy A's happy lot.
> And A should die in misery—
> That is, assuming I am D.

You will not find many single taxers on the real property rolls. In fact, several whose names are appended to articles appearing in Portland newspapers are not so fortunate, even, as to be listed in the city directory.

The death of Herman Wittenberg deprives the community of one of its most public-spirited and energetic citizens at what seemed the height of his career. He was aggressive and broad-minded, not only in his own business but in public affairs, in which he was always active. As a member of the School Board, he interested himself greatly in extending and improving education, and for that alone deserves to be remembered with gratitude. Such men can be ill spared in any community.

Say what you will, a ball is a society function and those who attend feel an irresistible impulse to wear society clothes. The movement at Eugene to exclude dress suits from certain hops is not well considered. It is no kindness to a young man to encourage him to be clownish in costume and manners. If he cannot dress properly for a ball let him stay away until he can. In the meantime he may study his lessons, an exercise which does not require any particular garb.

If representative government has fallen somewhat into disrepute in the United States, Senator Bailey, of Texas, is as much responsible for it as any other man. He lays the blame to "demagogues," but demagogues always bray in vain when they have no facts to bray about. In this case Mr. Bailey has supplied the facts.

Like an ill-behaved child, Cuba can be good when she has to. Which is better for that tumultuous isle, to have a "liberty" which means endless bloodshed or to suffer a "tyranny" which keeps the peace and makes the people happy? A people which cannot govern itself ought to be governed by somebody else.

There will be very little kissing done if kisser and kissee must have their mouths sterilized. That will bring the act into the range of premeditation, and the thought of programmed osculation will drive away all desire. Some scientists are crazy.

It is war to the death between monarchy and republic, between Manchu and Chinese, in China. The attempt to assassinate Yuan Shi Kai and the massacre of 10,000 Manchus are signs that the conflict is irreconcilable.

If Draeger, inventor of the pulmotor, would use his machine to pump the hot air out of the lungs of some Congressmen, we might get some of the much-desired legislation at this session.

Again has the City Jail been found unfit by a grand jury—that is, unfit for prisoners who, really, have a remedy within their reach. The pity belongs to officials, not criminals.

With the price of butter soaring towards 60 cents a pound, the Missouri dairyman need not worry about the means of providing for his sixteen living children.

Harmon has added one more to the explanations offered for the panic of 1907. In Democratic eyes the tariff is the scapegoat for everything which goes wrong.

Warned by the looting during the foreign occupation of Pekin in 1900, the Manchus sell their treasures before the foreign troops arrive.

Mrs. Evans is to be commended for her effort to suppress the frozen orange. Oregon has enough good fruit to supply the home market.

Salem barkeepers would better await the psychological moment in seeking more pay. They are a year ahead of the session.

This is a little bit of Eastern weather that flipped over the mountains and comes at the right time.

More schoolhouses are needed and must be built. They are a condition of Portland's growth.

The spirits needed only to ask from Mrs. Thurston and their earthly representatives received.

The distance from Oyster Bay to Washington is too great for even fifty-foot jumps on skis.

A roll call of the Democratic Colonels on Wilson will make it unanimous.

SINGLE TAX IS MENACE TO STATE.

Oregon's Strength Shown by Ability to Take Punishment, Says Assessor.

PORTLAND, Jan. 17.—(To the Editor.)—It has seemed somewhat strange to me that in all the articles which have appeared from the advocates of single tax, no reference has been made to the tax burden itself. I have always supposed that any one who is really in earnest about tax reform must be deeply interested in this phase of the tax problem, it being by far the most important one before the people of Oregon today. During the past month reports have been coming in from the various tax-levying bodies; they all tell the same story. And in addition, the state is calling on each county for more than double the amount of last year.

It would be supposed that the single taxer, his heart apparently so torn and rifted with sympathy for the home owner of this country, would be pleading for a reduction of expenses, but never a word of protest, so far as I have noticed. It has been my mission to go forth annually and make an attempt at apportioning this tax load among the people in a county, where the burden is among the lowest, and where the people certainly complain the least. I have noticed this growth from year to year and have felt for the taxpayers, but to suppose that any relief can be obtained by wholesale exemption is absurd. And no one, as a rule, is asking for it. It is surprising to see how cheerfully the people shoulder the burden, heavy as it is, only asking in most cases to be spared from single tax.

Who is there but can offer a good reason why his particular species of property should not be taxed? We have heard many such. For example, an article recently appeared in The Oregonian, offering a good reason why growing timber should not be assessed. I have also heard the same claim made for over-ripe timber. It has even been asserted that land should not be taxed, that dogs and swine should be exempt. "Every family needs a dog to eat its bones and a pig to eat its slops."

In view of the heavy increase in expenses, generally speaking, throughout the state, I think there has never been a time when the tax rolls needed all forms of property as they do today, and I shudder to think of the result should the entire load be shifted to the land alone.

It is certainly very unfortunate that the leaders in this movement should have turned their attention to tax matters at this particular time, as there can be little doubt that this agitation is keeping people out of the country. Oregon is a strong state, and nothing proves her strength more than her ability to take punishment and yet keep coming. We are told that Portland, being a fresh water harbor, all seagoing vessels are anxious to put into her waters to clear their hulls of barnacles, but if Multnomah County ever allows herself to get into the clutches of single tax, Portland will have a barnacle on her hull that all the fresh waters of the Willamette and Columbia will not soon wash away.

Let every man that takes his dinner pail and goes to the mill or factory, and every man that labors on the street or on the farm, let us each and all bear in mind that when they bar us from the tax roll of our county we will pay dear for the whistle. I believe in allowing every man a right to make himself a voter at a school election, and a right to be drawn on the jury list of his county; in fact, I want to allow him all the privileges of citizenship. Therefore, to preserve these rights, voters of Oregon, be on your guard, relinquish not a single gift that is your heritage from a glorious past; battle for the rights the Constitution has given you and never weary of the struggle. The shadow of single tax hangs like a black pall over every Oregon home. Never cease till the dawn breaks and the shadow flees.

D. B. M'KNIGHT.
Assessor of Linn County.

Country Town Sayings by Ed Howe

When a spoilt boy is away from his indulgent and admiring mother, what a spectacle he makes of himself!

Too much business makes a man cranky, and too little makes him worry.

People are ashamed of the clothes they wore last year and of their last year's habits.

If a man is not found out, he will finally tell on himself.

Probably the author of a book reads it after a year or two with as much regret as he reads an old love letter he has written.

When your brother comes to town to visit you, and you introduce him to your friend, your friend will say: "He is a better-looking man than you are." It is a way friends have.

A man never forgives his wife for having kin, unless they are rich or distinguished.

Never do what an enemy wants you to do. An enemy wants you to be idle, unreliable and impolite; and you will particularly please him if you are a drinking man.

The man who works forgets that he waits.

If the marriage service specified all the little details that are included in the word "cherish," who would be brave enough to marry?

THE CALL OF THE HILLS.

Oh, comrade, dear old comrade, don't
you hear the measured beat
Of the pack-train's steady climbing up
the rocky, endless steep?
Don't you feel again the hill wind on
your heated, aching brow,
As you listen to the camp-bird calling
from the nearest bough?

Oh, comrade, dear old comrade, don't
you mind when day was done,
How we reached the time-worn camp-
ground with the setting of the
sun?
How we ate our pan-cooked supper,
with the starlight over head,
And before the ruddy campfire piled
our spring hemlock bed?

Oh comrade, you remember with the
first streak of the day,
How we grabbed our rods and baskets
for a speedy get-away,
Through the tangled rhododendron,
white-trunked alders, firs and
brake,
To the lonesome stream that wanders
from the placid, smiling lake?

Oh, comrade, dear old comrade, how we
wandered many days
Till the dusky shadows lengthened in
the waning Summer's haze,
Where the lurking trout grew wary as
we cast the tempting hooks
In the dark green waves that rippled
o'er the alder's submerged roots?

Oh, comrade, dear old comrade, don't
you hear the mountains call?
Don't you see the moonlight dancing
down the forest's shadowy hall?
Don't you see the speckled beauty dart
across the sun-flecked stream?
Don't you feel all nature calling to the
land of life and dream?

So comrade, dear old comrade, pack
your blankets, gun and rod;
Let us leave this stifling city for the
fresh and dew-kissed sod;
Let us hike back to God's country
where a man can be a man,
With our hearts atune to nature's and
the everlasting plan.

—N. A. BARHAN.

WOMEN WOULD ENFORCE LAWS.

Mother Who Believes in Protecting Society Challenges "Effeminate" Men.

PORTLAND, Jan. 16.—(To the Editor.)—A bit of Ed Howe's philosophy, found in The Oregonian today, seems specially timely and appropriate to present conditions in Oregon:

> For the benefit of the public, and as a welcome lesson, it is occasionally necessary to kill a sheep-killing dog, in spite of protests of sentimental people who have lost no sheep and are therefore charitable.

Mr. Howe hits upon a fundamental principle of social law and common sense which some of our Oregon theorists seem to overlook.

It is told of Mehamet Ali that on one occasion when rumors of popular discontent reached his ears, he ordered that all persons found speaking ill of him or his policies should be hanged in the public garden of Cairo. On the following morning an English diplomat saw 40 bodies hanging in the garden. He asked the Pasha how he had been able to convict so many so promptly, and received the astounding reply, "I do not know that those particular men were guilty—but there will be no more criticism." This is carrying repressive measures to an extreme, but it is nevertheless the fact that Mehamet Ali established social order in a country where he found absolute chaos.

Government is not child's play, and the security of a commonwealth cannot be sacrificed to the cowardly scruples of a sentimentalist. It may sometimes unfortunately happen, in a very strict enforcement of law, that an innocent man is punished, but even that should not be altogether regretted, if it serves to enforce a salutary lesson of respect for law; but in Oregon we have had no such question arise. We have the spectacle of criminals convicted absolutely, by evidence acceptable to a court of law and the common sense of every well-balanced individual, escaping the just penalty of their crimes, to be coddled and feted by the man who through some misapprehension considers himself, not the Governor, but the government.

The strongest nations have always been those having strict laws, rigidly enforced.

Among the ancient Gauls it was the custom to put to death by torture, in the presence of the army, the last man to respond to the trumpet call to arms. A strenuous method for securing promptness, but effective. In the early days of our own country many were found who could "endure hardness." Have we entirely degenerated? Have we no more red blood left in us? Is it so terrible a thing that an abandoned criminal, a man who has deliberately broken the laws of God and of man, should enjoy the blessing of a quick and painless death?

We do not hesitate to shoot one of the rabies-infected coyotes of Eastern Oregon. Should we not, considering the poor beasts' early disadvantages in education and environment, "give him another chance"?

In the news of today one may read between the lines the story so often repeated, of homes devastated by a beast more dangerous than any to be found in the cattle ranges of Eastern Oregon. Such men carry on their dastardly work boldly, for they know there is a very little chance of being caught, and even if caught and convicted they have only to expect a short period of healthful outdoor employment, on good fare, frequently shared by the man whose presence at any dinner table should be an honor, representing as he does our noble commonwealth.

I am a mother with growing sons and daughters. I do not think I am naturally cruel or vindictive, but for my part, I would say that if the men are grown so weak and "effeminate" that they cannot enforce the laws society has found through many centuries of experiment to be necessary, they might better allow the women a chance at the problem. We may forgive Kipling for his lack of gallantry, and admit that when it comes to protecting our young "the female of the species is more deadly than the male."

L. P. M.

Swedenborg's Works.

PORTLAND, Jan. 17.—(To the Editor.)—I notice in an article headed, "Mrs. Tingley and Theosophy," it is stated that anyone interested in Swedenborg's works or books can obtain same by applying to some Philadelphia firm.

I have enclosed herewith a stamped envelope, and if it is possible for you to give the address of this firm.

M. S.

New Church Tract and Publication Society, Twenty-second and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia.

Votes For Women in Sight.

PALO ALTO, Jan. 15.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian of January 7 I found an article on "Women and the Ballot." I was delighted to know you have taken the stand you have, and now the women of Oregon will surely get the suffrage at the next election. Oregon is ahead of California in many reforms but we are a year ahead in "votes for women."

Give your women the ballot. You can do it. I lived in Oregon 40 years.

MARY F. ROSEBROOK.

THAT FAMOUS FRICTION THEORY.

Human Nature Ceases at the Polls is Bourne Idea.

New York Evening Sun.

When the facts of the Oregon experiment annoy the Hon. Jonathan Bourne, Jr., he is not cast down. He simply retires from the field with dignity and plucks from his bosom the famous "friction theory" of community endeavor. We believe this great truth to be the Senator's own child. Certainly he is its only authentic nurse. It is the higher mathematics of progressive thought, and few there be who can expound its formulae. The mere mention of it has been sufficient to rout an entire audience.

The aim of the theory is simple and obvious: To prove that a thousand selfish individuals will vote unselfishly when using the initiative, referendum and recall. But how complex is the supporting argument may be seen from the following exposition of the doctrine contributed by Senator Bourne to the Atlantic Monthly:

"No two people in the world are exactly alike; consequently each individual has a different point of view or idea as to what constitute his own particular personal or unselfish interest. Where individuals act collectively or as a community—as they must under the initiative, referendum and recall—an infinite number of different forces are set in motion, most of them selfish, each struggling for supremacy, but all different because of the difference in the personal equations of the different individuals constituting the community. Because of their difference friction is created—each different selfish interest attacks the others because of its difference. No one selfish interest is powerful enough to overcome all the others; they must wear each other away until general welfare, according to the views of the majority acting, is substituted for the individual selfish interest."

It can be seen that a fundamental truth is involved. The old idea that little drops of water make the mighty ocean and little grains of sand our pleasant earth is left behind for all time. The little drops make stardust and the sand a soaring sun. The citizens of Oregon when assembled at the polls are no longer plain John Smith and Peter Robinson. Their common selfishness has been worn away by friction and they stand angels of light, eyes fixed on the common good and chanting the praises of that perfect altruist, the Hon. Jonathan Bourne, Jr.

There are difficulties in the application of the friction theory to certain conditions. It would seem that a very excellent grade of friction would be found in the prizering. Yet we have never heard that bruisers displayed any vast altruistic yearnings after a heart-felt contest. Similarly with a peace meeting. The results of friction among a thousand pacifiers assembled for an evening's sport are sometimes anything but impersonal and unselfish. But such apparent exceptions are doubtless due solely to our blindness. We should be poor in spirit indeed not to welcome heartily the great friction theory, child of the great Bourne brain. We are glad to record it as the belief of the progressives that human nature ceases at the polls.

NEW PROCESS OF ELIMINATION

Cocked-Hat Democrat Proposes Test for District Attorney Candidates.

PORTLAND, Jan. 18.—(To the Editor.)—As a Democrat perhaps it's none of my Colonel Harvey, yet after reading Justice Olson's suggestion to the many Republican aspirants for the office of District Attorney, that is to say, that the number be reduced by a voluntary meeting of the competitors, and that they all proceed to toss a coin to determine who among them is the most fit to serve the "cause of right and good morals," I confess that even the writer, a knocked-into-a-cocked-hat Democrat, became possessed of a tremulous thrill, coming up somewhere out of his amor patriae, but quickly dampened by Judge Hennessy's opinion that such conduct is unlawful and amenable to arrest, being nothing short of vulgar gambling.

This really is too bad. We have tried so long and so hard to invent some simple method, without the aid of bosses and assemblies, to do something, I don't know just exactly what, that it is a pity we cannot now do something just exactly what we want to do, through the modus operandi of tossing a coin.

Rather than witness a brilliant idea perish and go entirely to the devil in a mesh of legal quibbles, as is sometimes done in the United States Senate, I respectfully suggest, as a Democrat, a gentleman and a patriotic neutral, that instead of tossing a coin to ascertain and verify the business in hand, all the gentlemen concerned meet in Judge Kavanaugh's court, during the noon recess, and that the fellow who can hold his breath the longest be declared the ideal Republican to serve the "cause of right and good morals."

J. H. M.

Speaking and Talking.

Houston Post.

"Papa, is a good conversationalist a man who talks a great deal?"

"No, he is a man who says a great deal."

From Coast to Coast the Morning Paper Is Supreme

Start in with Boston and think of a newspaper in that city. Then think of every city you can from Boston to Portland. Think of any papers you can that are published in these cities. You will find that they are all morning papers.

In Boston they are Globe, Post, Herald, Journal; New York, Herald, Times, World, Tribune, American, Sun; Philadelphia, Inquirer, North American, Record, Ledger and Press; Pittsburg, Dispatch, Post and Gazette-Times; Baltimore, American and Sun; Cleveland, Plain Dealer and Leader; Chicago, Tribune, Record-Herald, Inter Ocean and Examiner; St. Louis, Globe Democrat and Republic; Minneapolis, Tribune; Milwaukee, Sentinel. And so on right straight through to the Coast where we have the Los Angeles Times and Examiner; San Francisco Call, Chronicle and Examiner; the Tacoma Ledger; Seattle P.-I.; Spokane Spokesman-Review.

In Portland it is The Oregonian. In every city there is always ONE great newspaper. One paper that is the power in its city. One paper that has the greatest circulation, carries the greatest amount of advertising. That paper is the one which pays advertisers best. In Portland this power is THE OREGONIAN.